

Thursday I voted with the rest of the House Ways and Means Committee in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009. As a member of the Committee, I actively participated in shaping this important legislation to provide tax relief to the American people.

I am pleased with this legislation's focus on tax relief for America's struggling, working families and also that it lays the groundwork to tackle some of our nation's most pressing domestic challenges -- rebuilding and renewing our infrastructure, fighting global warming with clean energy and energy efficiency, and reforming our healthcare system. At a time when our economy is in its most vulnerable condition in decades, American families and businesses need this assistance more than ever.

In Oregon alone this plan will save or create 52,890 jobs by the end of 2010, thereby reducing Oregon's unemployment rate by 1.8 percent by 2010.*

This tax and healthcare recovery package will be combined with other components from other House Committees to form H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and is expected to be brought to the full House for a vote next week.

**According to economist Mark Zandi's analysis of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*